THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

VOLUME 25. CHICAGO, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1871. NUMBER 85.

THE PHANTOM CITY.

A Moonlight Stroll Through the Shades of Chicago.

Rapid Disappearance of the Poetry and Romance of Our Ruins.

It is Material Destruction, and Nothing More, that One Views.

The Toppling Walls and Ruined Piles Giving Way to Prosaic Men.

It is only three weeks since the fire, impelled by the stormy southwest wind, swept across our city, leaving behind it the blackest desolation and the completest destruction, and many now who for years have toiled and strove there, and who, anticipating their forthcoming fate, had piled stone upon stone, and filled their completed piles with the products of the world, than the red flames that blotted out when he devastated conquered Jerusalem. And yet so little regard have we for the past, and so constantly do we turn our thoughts to the future, that the very appearances of those ruins, which we gazed at so sorrowfully and wonderfully lovely days ago, will soon be effaced from our minds, and we will forget that this new city, in this new country, has had its ruins, as well as Italy or the East, though ours were once the homes of merchant princes, and theirs of Emperors and barbaric Kings. At present we have stereoscopic views of shattered walls and fire-eaten stones, and little boys have spread out on planks, placed upon trestles, or carry about in their hands, relics of the conflagration. Poking among the ashes they have raked out melted bankdates, broken crockery, singed white dolls, and half-fused oyster shells, which will figure upon mantel-pieces by the side of fragments of stone from Melrose Abbey, or mosaics from the floors of Roman palaces, or pieces of shells that burst within the walls of Sebastopol or Paris. But this trade, the happy inspiration of some smart boy, will cease in a few days, for it is generally only strangers who buy these things. So many men here have ruins of their own, and cellars full of private relics, that they do not care to buy. A man who has an impressive policy in a Chicago Company has a memento for which he has paid quite enough, and which is so intrinsically valueless as any relic can be. He can have it framed and hung on his walls as an illustration of the vanity of human hopes and the mistaken meanings which dictionaries give the word "insurance." But the truth is, we are unable to see anything praiseworthy in a tumble-down structure, and praiseworthy in a tumble-down structure, and would give our marble front for all the ruined castles in Europe, and, having started as our ideal for a City, we set to work to clear them away.

It would be a pity, were they to pass so quickly into oblivion, once to us, who lived here, they were so wonderfully suggestive, and we could spend days in studying them. They were like books of travels and lasting associations. While those in other lands write only vague memories of a hazy past, ours brought up no recollections of home or hosts, of precedency Lords, historic names and principalities, and they were linked directly with the life we had been living. They were not moss-covered and ivy-mantled, but green and crude. There is much in Pompeii that brings us in contact with the every-day life of the people, but there is no more in a ruin than a mummy is a skeleton, and our city did resemble a skeleton which lacked quite a number of bones and would require a deal of restoration before it could be properly mounted. Here we had the perfection of wanton destruction, and had they been let alone for a year, nothing could have surpassed them. They would have been as interesting as a ruined city of Yucatan.

But now we go over in the daytime, through the heaps of débris, we find that the infinite possibilities for romance and poetry which they once presented, are rapidly disappearing. They are spoiling our ruins, and it is not time that is hallowing and adorning, but man. While destroying them, but it is prosaic and matter-of-fact men; in among these ruined piles, and at the feet of these toppling walls, pine shanties are springing up, imitating in name only, the edifices that preceded them. There is in Western metropolitan amongst the ruins of Tadmor; a gay encampment beside some decaying Egyptian castle. Hundreds of men are picking up, cleaning and piling brick. Owners and architects talk hopefully of what is standing. Groups of boys with sacks on their shoulders are picking out scraps of old iron, or bits of tall burned paper and cloth. Full street cars are running back and forth. Policemen tell the story on their beats. All is life and activity. And if a person, desirous of reaching a contemplated frame of mind, and of working himself up to a proper pitch to write the history of the wreck of the Spanish Main, seats himself on a pile of bricks at the corner of the two best avenues for that vocation, he is sure to be startled from his reverie by a crowd of boys with sacks on their shoulders, placed upon trestles, or carry about in their hands, relics of the conflagration. Poking among the ashes they have raked out melted bankdates, broken crockery, singed white dolls, and half-fused oyster shells, which will figure upon mantel-pieces by the side of fragments of stone from Melrose Abbey, or mosaics from the floors of Roman palaces, or pieces of shells that burst within the walls of Sebastopol or Paris. But this trade, the happy inspiration of some smart boy, will cease in a few days, for it is generally only strangers who buy these things. So many men here have ruins of their own, and cellars full of private relics, that they do not care to buy. A man who has an impressive policy in a Chicago Company has a memento for which he has paid quite enough, and which is so intrinsically valueless as any relic can be. He can have it framed and hung on his walls as an illustration of the vanity of human hopes and the mistaken meanings which dictionaries give the word "insurance." But the truth is, we are unable to see anything

UTAH.

Feeling Relative to the Chicago Fire—The Prosecution of the Polygamists—The Conference of the Saints—The Mines.

[Special Correspondence of The Chicago Tribune.]

SALT LAKE CITY, Oct. 22.

Since the news of your great calamity worked its way heavily westward on the wires, all the uses of this life not immediately bearing upon or connected with it have seemed most stale flat, and unprofitable. Nothing since the assassination of Lincoln has so thrilled the Western country with a sickening sensation of horror as the burning of Chicago. It was felt as a personal loss—as if not only one's friends had been overtaken by a fate next to death, but as if a great space had been wiped out of one's own life. Mingled with this, at first, was a disheartening sense of human helplessness—of the uselessness of all effort beyond "tending of cattle and tossing of clover." But this was soon displaced by the desire to succor the destitute, cold, and hungry. In this city a subscription of $12,000 was soon raised and forwarded, Mormon and Gentile vying with each other in liberality. Brigham Young gave $1,000, and the Walker Brothers $2,500. Other towns and mining camps joined in, giving according to their means. Then came the reviving spectacle of generous help spontaneously tendered, as if upon a single impulse, by all Christian lands. Then the news that the builders of Old Chicago, instead of mourning over her ruins, had immediately rebuilding hers, as was what the Far West, which has as much pride in the Pacific Metropolis as she has in herself, expected. And so, now, the vision of the New Chicago, rising more beautiful and grand in every sense than the Old, is beginning to take the place of the noisy, bustling town which used to interest us in so many ways on our occasional visits, and which exerted so large an influence on our daily lives. But it must still be a new forest, not the old; a new friend, the old one is gone forever, passed away with the experiences of yesterday. Change is written on all things on the world itself; what has been, what is, we never be again; but the blotting out in one morning of a great city is so shocking and irretrievable a change that it marks an epoch. Henceforth this generation may well write "the year of the burning of Chicago," instead of "the year of Our Lord."

Seeing that you have risen from your own ashes with almost the face of yore, turn we, with still half-paralyzed faculties, to note contemporaneous doings. The inevitable conflict with polygamy and theocracy in Utah is progressing steadily, and is too late for protest from any quarter. There is no religious persecution in the case, nor is there now a religious consideration in it, but simply a legal one. Some things and things—perhaps fate—has impelled the representatives of our people and government in Utah to take possession of the courts and enforce the laws. Nothing short of a power equal to arresting and turning back Anglo-Saxon civilization can now step with effect between them and their object. So that people of no convictions, far and near, may as well reserve their objections, although it is likely to be much the same whether they do or not.

The grand jury attendant on Judge McKean's court seems to have presented Brigham Young, Daniel H. Wells, Geo. Q. Cannon, H. W. Lawrence, and others, for "lascivious cohabitation," under a statute of the Territory punishing the offence with severity. Young, Wells, and Cannon have been arrested, have appeared in court, pleaded not guilty, and been admitted to bail in the sum of $5,000 each. Nothing further has yet been done in these cases, that of Young excepted, for whom Tom Fitch, Major Hempstead, and the entire Mormon bar appear as counsel. The first filed a plea in abatement, questioning the legality of the grand jury, &c. The prosecution demurred, and the demurrer was sustained. Then a motion was made to quash the indictment, or compel the prosecution to elect under which count they would proceed—there being sixteen in the indictment. This motion was denied by the court, the counsel for the defence admitting that it was entirely within the discretion to do so or not. The ruling closed as follows:

"While the case at bar is called 'The People vs. Brigham Young,' its other and real title is 'Federal Authority vs. Polygamic Theocracy.' The government of the United States, founded upon a written constitution, finds within its jurisdiction another government, claiming to come from God—*imperium in imperio*—whose policy and practice, in many particulars, are at variance with its own. The one appeals from the other, in the person of its chief, and arraigns it at the bar. A system is on trial in the person of Brigham Young. Let all concerned keep this fact steadily in view, and let that government rule without a rival which shall prove to be in the right. If the learned counsel for the defendant will address authorities or principles, from the whole range of jurisprudence, or of history, or social science, proving that the peculiar practices charged in the indictment are not crimes, this Court will at once quash this indictment and charge the grand jury to find no more of the kind."

The counsel for the defence filed a bill of exceptions to this ruling, of which the following was the gist:

"The indictment in this case charges the defendant with 'lascivious cohabitation,' and not with polygamy or bigamy. The statement of your honor, that a system of polygamic theocracy is on trial in this case in the person of Brigham Young, coupled with your remarks, tend to prove by admissions that the acts charged in the indictment are not crimes, is most prejudicial to a fair trial of the defendant, in that it assumes that the defendant has been guilty of the acts charged in the indictment, and that the law, and not the alleged fact, will be on trial."

The prosecution objected to this document as unusual and unwarranted, and intended for political effect. Mr. Fitch replied that it was no more political than the opinion which elicited it. The prosecution maintained that the reception of such a reflection upon the character of the court would be a dangerous precedent. The Judge said the bill might be filed, but he would not regard it as a precedent. Subsequently the defence asked for a postponement to the next term. The Court neither granted or refused this motion, but intimated that an adjourned term would be held, which would accommodate all parties. The trials will be of great interest, as they will present some curious questions—involving, as they do, political, social, religious, as well as judicial considerations. All parties would like to see the matter settled at the highest tribunal of the land, if possible; but as to whether they will be or not, there is a difference of opinion. There is little doubt, however, of Mormon submission to the verdict of the powers that be, whatever it is.

The Hawkins adultery case is one of another kidney. It came on for trial last week. The defence asked for a change of venue, which was refused. Then they fought for a postponement over the impanelling of a jury. Finally, a jury was obtained, no member of which believed Mormon revelation of more binding force than the laws of the land; and after able arguments on both sides, the case was given to them—the Judge instructing them very forcibly and clearly that, if satisfied by the evidence offered of the offence, they must find Hawkins guilty under the law. After being out ten minutes, the jury brought in a sealed verdict of guilty. The court room was crowded, and the announcement created a sensation. The counsel for the people moved that the defendant be taken into custody, which motion was stoutly resisted by the defendant's attorneys. The Court directed the Marshal to hold Hawkins as a prisoner. Time was allowed to prepare a motion for a new trial and arrest of judgment. This is a test case and virtually places all polygamists at the mercy of the first wife. The penalty is imprisonment not exceeding twenty years, and not less than three years, or fine of not less than $300 or more than $1,000, or both, in the discretion of the Court. Hawkins is to be sentenced to-morrow.

The regular Semi-Annual Conference of the Church came and went as stereotyped. There was the usual political preaching in defence of polygamy, and "the Kingdom of God, or nothing" bravado. The Tribune of this city thought it could see a marked falling off in the conference, compared with those of six or eight years ago. The Kingdom "may not be a failure to old or the Reminder," although Q. Chadon still insists that "it shall spread over all the earth, and have universal sway." The grand jury was dismissed, just after the conference, for a month's recess.

A woman, named Osield, living at Brigham City formerly, but upon her husband's going into polygamy, fleeing to California, has taken the Mrs. Hawkins trail since her husband, in other words, had him indicted for adultery, and, while he was hiding away from the officers of the law, stole her two children and fled West with them. For convincingly urging her in this, several persons were yesterday cut off from the Church.

The woman here have united in a sweet protest against further interference with polygamy, and also in a petition to Mrs. Grant for Judge McKean's removal, for having put "the President" (Brigham) arrested.

John Taylor has come to the front again with a crooked argument going to show that the Mormon government is not a theocracy. But, then, Taylor isn't responsible; he lost his wits years ago.

The mines flourish about as of yore. There is some excitement concerning the discovery of tin ore "at or near Ogden." It is claimed that it is rich, and the deposit extensive. If so, it is a good thing. The Ploche Mines shipped, per Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, $996,500 worth of silver bullion in the quarter ending September 30. Eight or ten thousand tons of high grade are said to have been discovered by drifting from the first and third levels, in the famous Emma Mine. It seems that the compromise in the Emma quarrel only included two of the three parties contending for it; and they, in sharp practice, or good management, according as one looks at it, secured a patent for the mine. The third party, however, represented by William Ledd, of San Francisco, have commenced proceedings to set aside the patent as fraudulently obtained.

The city is a little excited over the attempt of a butcher named Lauman to sell meat outside of the city market; but, in the midst of the main advance on the enemy's line, it is hardly worth notice. The city is spread thinly over a good deal of ground. It has a market-house near the centre of it, to which it rents stalls at enormous rates, and compels butchers to sell there or nowhere, by city ordinance. Some of this people, not liking to walk three miles for their morning steak, have run against this, and, it is to be hoped, will beat it.

DOUGLASS.

The Rage for False Diamonds.

From the New York Herald.

The badge of a King official is a diamond of unrivalled size. Only the King Jockeys can afford to wear real gems. Yet every passenger, at $45 a month, who flits about the New Court House and City Hall wears glittering jewels, with the unfinished, perhaps, the heaven, ballet girl. The real stones of considerable value. It is not uncommon to see diamonds—or what purport to be diamonds—of the magnificence of half a thousand dollars worth on the fingers of shop-girls and the bosoms of stable-boys. The consequence is that this class of jewelry, expensively imitated, is in greater danger than has been given up by the majority of honest Indians, pearls being worn instead.

Artificial diamonds are made of a peculiar glass called strass. This glass has a property of refracting light in the same way as the diamond, and its manufacture has been carried to such perfection that an ordinary observer cannot distinguish gems made of it from real diamonds. After a few years these stones tend to crystallize, so that in ten years they become turbid and lose all their lustre. These stones, however, can always be distinguished by a practical lapidary by various tests, such as hardness and peculiarities in the cutting. Diamonds are also imitated by a process called doubleting, by which a very thin slab of diamond is cemented to some stone, such as quartz or white topaz. Sometimes real stones, such as zircon and topaz, when they are colorless, or only slightly colored, are passed off as diamonds. It is very rare that diamonds are valuable, but they are of all colors. Pulled diamonds are made almost entirely of paste, and California diamonds are simply quartz or rock crystal.

The number of false gems in use is immense. Prof. Kapplemann, of Gallipolis, O., examined, on this occasion, a collection of diamonds, which, he said, year after year, supposed to be a ruby, for a wedding house here. He concluded from optical examination that it was glass. It came originally from New Granada, and had been sent to Paris and pronounced real. No London surprise was thrown on it. It was very pardonable when the flaws were imitated. The Professor was shown in Paris last year a bill of $30 francs, paid by an American lady, who is famous for her diamonds, to a manufacturer of bogus gems. His opinion is that this lady has two or three real diamonds, and that the rest, which would be worth $1,000,000 if real, could all be bought for the 300 francs. The majority of diamonds in this country now are of local manufacture. As there is a tariff of 10 per cent on these goods, and as a great deal of unmitigated fraud is committed in the quarter of New Granada, and had been sent to Paris and pronounced real, no London surprise was thrown on it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Penalty for Stealing Iron—
th Side Grades—Report of the
mo Committee on the Existing
Levy—Grand Total Property
tion of the City, $283,589,000
ilroad Matters—The Fire Lim-

...ular meeting of the Council was held yesterday, the President in the chair. Present, ...ley, the President in the chair. Present, ...Kelly—Bolger, Dixon, Otis, Montgomery, ...Kelly—Belcher, Dixon, Otis, Montgomery, ...Bolger, Thompson, Wheeler, Dagg, Tracy, ...Hoyt, Thompson, Wheeler, Dagg, Tracy, ...Bellerant, Hickey, W. B. Powell, I. G. ...Gill, Rinaker, McGrath, Tyler, Schmidt, ...Bolger, McGrath, Tyler, Schmidt, ...Bell Boys, McCauley, Clarke, McCaffrey, ...

The Journal was read and adopted.

The Comptroller to report the expenditures ...ter, and the amount of money in the ...ter, and the amount of money in the ...ment for the month, which it belonged.

...ing of the Committee on the subject ...ment for the month in lieu of the usu...ing to the Committee on Fire and ...ing to the Committee on Fire and ...ing to the Committee on Fire and

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Branch Office.

For the accommodation of our customers in the South Division of the city, a branch office of THE TRIBUNE has been established at No. 480 Wabash avenue, in the bookstore of Messrs. Cobb, Andrews & Co., where advertisements and subscriptions, and changes in the delivery of THE TRIBUNE can be left up to 10 p. m., and will receive the same attention as if left at the main office.

UNION NOMINATIONS.

Fire-Proof Ticket for City and County Officers.

Judge of the Superior Court—John A. Jameson.
Judge of the Circuit Court—Samuel W. Fuller.
County Treasurer—Julius S. Rumsey.
County Surveyor—Alexander Wolcott.
Police Commissioner—Jacob Rehm.
State Senator—Thomas Carter.

County Commissioners.

M. C. Seargent, Christian Wahl, John Sexton, Charles Hitchcock, D. C. McAuley, John Crawford, J. H. Pashman, Samuel Keith, Manuel Talcott, Carter H. Harrison, Joseph Harris, Thos. Lonergan, Julius White, John Herting, Samuel Ashton.

City Officers.

Mayor—Joseph Medill.
Treasurer—D. A. Gage.
Collector—George Von Notes.
Attorney—Israel N. Stiles.
Clerk Police Court—C. H. Mason.
Police Magistrates—John Morrissey, John Sherlock, W. H. Foreman.

Aldermen.

Wards.	
1. Chauncey T. Bowen.	11. Henry Sproat.
2. Arthur Dixon.	12. Marcus Hanrick.
3. Thomas J. Warner.	13. Geo. W. Sherwood.
4. J. H. McAvoy.	14. Rufus Cleveland.
5. E. S. Wright.	15. D. Van Orsdel.
6. D. Remick.	16. Thos. Sorey.
7. William Rawleigh.	17. O. Hotchkiss.
8. J. Cleary.	18. Owen McCarthy.
9. James McMillan.	19. Nelson D. Dodge.
10. L. L. Bond.	20. Lambert Tree.

THE CHICAGO WORKINGMEN.

A good deal has been said, and very properly and truthfully said, of the energy shown by the business men of this city under the calamitious exigency which has befallen them. Hardly a man of them but has "come up smiling" after his terrible knockdown, full of pluck and vigor, without the remotest thought that he will ever have to "throw up the sponge." Not a man of them but was hit hard, and very hard, right between the eyes, and went to grass at once in the most sudden way; but not one of them that did not come to time, and who is not firm on his legs again, steadier, readier, and braver than ever. The struggle has come down so much to a display of personal pluck and individual energy, that the condensed language of the P. R. seems to have a peculiar signification, for there has been, and is still, a terrible fight against adverse circumstances, in which nothing but the most absolute self-reliance and the most unhesitating courage in each individual man could be of any avail whatever.

But, true as all this is, there is still another class of the community not less worthy of admiration—even if not more worthy of it—who attract less attention, but whose conduct and character is of the last importance to the welfare of the city. How many working people, that is, people who earn their daily bread by the labor of their hands, were brought to sudden ruin by the fire, it is impossible to tell, but there were certainly scores ten of thousands. Now, many of these people lost everything they possessed in the world; and that that everything was little, and not much, only made their case the harder, for they had worked long and hard for that little, and it was the more precious to them in proportion to the self-denial and the time the accumulation had cost them. But their all gone, they have to live and be clothed, and housed, and there is no alternative for them but to accept such relief as they can get in the first sharp struggle to keep soul and body together. They yield simply to an inexorable necessity; but it is evident that they do not mean to submit to that necessity for a single moment when it is possible to escape from it. The universal testimony of all those engaged in administering to the public wants is that the workingmen, as a class, turn to their work and to providing for themselves and their wives and children as soon as it is possible for them to do so. Indeed them shelter, though it be in a barrack, and food for immediate needs, which the wife or the child can get by waiting in line at the dispensing depot, and the head of the family goes off at once to seek for labor which will enable him and his to be once more independent and self-sustaining. The moment he is able to do so he declines further reliance upon the Public Relief, and in some districts the demand has fallen off a third, a half, and even two-thirds during the last week. During the coming week it is estimated that the necessary distribution of bread—and every thing else in proportion—will be diminished, on an average, one-fourth at least throughout the city. The conclusion, of course, is obvious: the laboring people accept aid so long as they cannot help themselves; but as fast as they can get into a condition to help themselves they accept no bread except that which they earn by the sweat of their own brows. Of course, there are individual exceptions; there are idle and vicious, as in all large communities, who will beg, or steal, or go hungry to the verge of starvation, rather than work. But these exceptions are few among us. Nor is the decrease in the number to be fed in the various districts the only evidence of this disposition among the working people. Of the 3,000 houses which the Shelter Committee have given out, nearly all, if not all, are to laboring people. When the applicant has not the skill to put up his house, or the means to hire a carpenter, the committee renders him further aid. But it is a remarkable fact that not one in ten wants any such assistance. He either puts up his house himself, or can earn enough to pay some one else to do it for him; and if, meanwhile, he accepts food from the public depository, it is only to enable him to bridge over his present difficulty till he can get over his head a roof that he can call his own. But, honorable as this disposition among the workingmen of Chicago is, and remarkable, under the circumstances of the times, as an evidence of the high moral tone and the great energy and elasticity which characterizes them as a class, the fact is one which does not surprise the old members of the Relief and Aid Society. The larger proportion of those whom, in previous winters they have been called upon to aid, have made only a single application for assistance; a smaller number have applied only twice, and so on down to a fixed but small number of infirm, indolent, or improvident, who rely permanently upon charity for support. The great mass of those among us who live by the labor of their hands, have cultivated a commendable pride in being independent and self-supporting, and that high principle is bearing good fruit at this most trying time; and, if Chicago shall ever recover her prosperity it will be owing as much to the energy, and industry, and character of her laboring people, as of any other class. It is not them that the grumblers are found who are crying aloud to everybody to come to their help. The laboring man thankfully takes in one hand the chunk of meat and bread that is given him to keep the life in him, and with the other hand goes to work to build his own house or somebody's else, and has neither time nor inclination for growling. All's clear, there are none among us with a higher sense of honor on the question of relief, a clearer idea of the condition and necessities of the city, or a more determined will to do their part like men, than the Chicago workingmen, and, grateful as we are, and ought to be, for the fact, we should be no less prompt in acknowledging it.

As if the owners of residences in the burned districts of the city had not already suffered sufficiently, gangs of men and women are daily traversing the ruins, some with bags and some with carts, and carrying off valuable strips of heating, cooper boilers, and other domestic hardware which is of value to the owner. The police authorities should immediately take steps to prevent such outrages by ordering the arrest of all persons found carrying off any valuable articles in their possession, taken from the ruins, who cannot show a clear title to them. If theft of household articles before the fire was a crime, we see no reason why the same offence should not be a crime now; and why it should not be punished with even more than the usual severity. Let the police see to it that the property-owners have what little the fire has left.

TITLES TO REAL ESTATE.

The most important thing to be done now is to restore the land records of Cook County, so that parties who own unincumbered real estate can borrow money on it for the purpose of rebuilding, and so that those who desire to sell a portion of their property in order to improve the rest, can do so. A vast amount of capital has been brought here for investment in real estate, either by mortgage or purchase, but nothing can be done until the Legislature takes some steps to restore the records.

This is not so difficult a matter as it might at first appear. The preservation of the books of two or three of the principal firms engaged in the business of making abstracts, furnishes prima facie evidence of title. Upon this, and such other evidence as may exist, the Legislature must pass a law providing for a judicial examination and decision upon each tract. A title cannot be restored by mere legislation. It must be what the lawyers call res adjudicata. A court of equity could make a good title before the fire, and it can do so equally after the fire. To accomplish the amount of work which will be thrown upon the courts, it will be necessary to have a sufficient number of Masters in Chancery, or Court Commissioners, appointed to take evidence and report to the Judges what equity requires to be done. The mode of procedure would naturally be to publish that on a certain day before a certain Master in Chancery, or Commissioner, testimony would be received to establish the title to a certain lot claimed by A. B. All adverse claimants could thus be duly notified to appear and present the grounds of their claims or forever after hold their peace. The abstract books would furnish prima facie evidence, and it would be for parties objecting to such prima facie evidence to bring forward proofs strong enough to upset the showing of the books. Of course, the fire wipes out several thousand old dower claims, and other technicalities, upon which suits had been brought, or were liable to be brought, to wrest property away from bona fide purchasers. This is the only comfort that can be extracted from the burning of the records; but it is no small consolation to know that, when the titles are restored, they will be "bran new," and that it will no longer be necessary for every buyer to go back to the year One to ascertain whether the seller owns the land which he proposes to convey.

THE REPUBLIC INSURANCE COMPANY.

The card, signed by the officers of the Republic Insurance Company, and published yesterday, is a very unsatisfactory document. What is this company? Was it a swindling affair from the beginning? Was the array of "four thousand names" of bankers, merchants, capitalists and others a fraud, intended to cheat the public? Was it the intention of the officers to hoodwink the public with the appearance of solvency and then to induce them into accepting 25 per cent of their losses? Just before this fire, this company issued a circular, virtually informing the public that these four thousand bankers, capitalists, and merchants held themselves in readiness to pay into the treasury of the company, four millions of dollars to cover any loss that might occur to insurers. The loss has come, and it is three millions of dollars. The company has one million of cash. All that the four thousand capitalists have to raise to pay their indebtedness is two millions of dollars, or forty cents on the dollar of their debts. In the face of these notorious facts, the officers have the effrontery to issue the following statement:

> "The embarrassments and delays incident to the collection of an assessment upon nearly four thousand stockholders, scattered all over the country, whose subscriptions are not secured by notes or otherwise, have induced many to accept twenty-five per cent of their claims rather than await the law's delay and uncertainty of collection."

Had the company before the fire stated that the embarrassments and delays incident to the collection of an assessment upon nearly four thousand stockholders whose subscriptions are not secured by note or otherwise, must be apparent, how many policies would the company have been able to foist upon the public? The alternative in the mind of this company is not a fraud from the beginning. To raise doubts, as the officers now do, as to the possibility of collecting the unpaid subscriptions, is to do the meanest thing that it is possible for a business man to do, viz, to stab his own credit for the purpose of buying up his debts at a discount. The four thousand bankers, capitalists and merchants cannot now plead that the concern was always bogus, and that they were aiders and abettors of the sham. They must make good this loss, or they can never face the people who have been so grossly swindled. The statement by the officers that they have taken advantage of the present necessities of policy-holders and have settled with them at twenty-five cents on the dollar, is a disgraceful confession. Corporate or personal character must be sunk very low when it has the face to assure creditors that they had better take twenty-five per cent of their claims than depend upon the honesty of the company to pay even that.

St. Louis is exerting herself vigorously to hold as much as possible of the trade which is now drifting thither from Chicago. Among the measures proposed is the emancipation of the North Missouri Railroad from the double curse of slow management and slower litigation under which it has been laboring of late, also improvements in the very deficient warehousing system of the city; also the usual scheme for barges or boats to New Orleans. On the first of these topics a meeting was held on Saturday evening at which many speeches were made and many resolutions offered; but as the subject was to request certain action of the courts, which are not supposed to be influenced by public meetings, and as the meeting (of 100 men) was divided about evenly on the subject concerning which the court is to be advised, the meeting can hardly be expected to produce any marked effect.

The great drawback of St. Louis, in the race which she is now making (in acknowledged emulation of Chicago) for the trade of the West, is her lack of facilities for distributing to and collecting from that section. The great drawback of Chicago is her lack, (since the first of facilities for buying and handling merchandise—our facilities for distributing and collecting being unimpaired. It is absolutely necessary, in order to save our trade, that we should recover the lost facilities faster than our competitors can acquire those which they lack. Otherwise, they can underbid us for trade, and of course get it.

Is there any unnecessary delay in the reconstruction of the business of Chicago? We certainly are not prepared to say "no" to this question. The great requisites for our business are capital with which to buy our buildings in which to store and show goods. The prerequisites to these are good real estate titles, as securities on which capital can be obtained in the shape of loans. These titles are still in a state of chaos. Even when they are found, it is said, passage until the Legislature meets.

The French Government have finally decided on the mode of reorganizing the army, and the strength of which it shall consist. Their aim is to be 125 regiments of infantry, each to be composed of 3,000 men; 30,000 cavalry, and 40,000 artillerists; total strength of the army on a peace footing, 274,000 men.

This force is to be supported by a nation that contains less population than the United States, and less tax-paying ability, and which has a debt of $4,000,000,000, drawing 5 per cent interest, to take care of. The interest on the French debt, after paying the German indemnity, will amount to $200,000,000 annually. The present amount of interest on our debt is rather less than $113,000,000. People grumble in this country at having to support a standing army of 30,000 men; but the French standing army will be more than twelve times as great. The people of France groan and stagger under their great and needless burden. If they were governed by wise rulers, the standing army would be cut down to 100,000 men, and 275,000 would be liberated from the ranks and sent home to engage in productive industry, where they could not only support themselves, but help to support the State. The gain to that nation by diminishing the army to 100,000 men would equal the interest on their enormous debt.

A correspondent complains that several of the Hartford insurance companies doing business in this city are not acting in good faith towards the holders of their policies. They have all got out new statements of their condition, which exhibit a most remarkable shrinkage of assets. We give the comparative statements:

Companies.	Assets, Jan. 1, 1871.	Assets, Oct. 1871.	Shrinkage.
Merchants	$500,000	$392,000	$107,000
City	548,197	419,016	129,180
Connecticut	420,000	393,260	26,740
Putnam	770,729	456,009	275,720
Totals	$2,564,926	$1,660,275	$567,650

The companies are requiring claimants to sign agreements in which they promise only to pay a percentage of ascertained losses. By representing their assets at less and the losses more than the truth, these and other companies may succeed in getting assignments of policies from needy sufferers and pocket the money honestly due to the insured. Our correspondent urges that it would be more honorable for these companies to go at once into bankruptcy, and divide honestly all they have among their victims.

One of the Philadelphia papers mentions that the subscriptions in that city in aid of Chicago amounted on Wednesday, October 11, to $100,000, and was subsequently increased to half a million of dollars, and that no mention of this has been made in the Chicago papers. The omission, if there has been any, has not been owing to any desire to do injustice to the noble men and women of Philadelphia, whose words of cheer and substantial aid coming to us in the very hour of our distress, told us that the whole country was our friend and its stores at our service. No one but a citizen of Chicago can ever tell how welcome those kindly messages did to raise our spirits, and lead us from thoughts of disaster to work for rebuilding the city and resumption of trade.

Somebody has been robbing the city of Philadelphia. It seems that certificates of loans have been sold by the public officers to be disposed of according to necessity. A result of this loose way of doing business is that there are out and in the hands of bona-fide purchasers $600,000 of city bonds, for which there is no money in the City Treasury. To add to the complication, the City Comptroller gives notice that he will not pay interest on these bonds, thus virtually repudiating that portion of the debt.

The Democratic Banner, published at Fayette, Howard County, Missouri, frankly confesses it is "not sorry" for the destruction of Chicago and the suffering of the people, and thanks "it is the bitter chalice coming home to wicked lips." Several other Democratic papers at the South express the same feeling, which, however, is not shared in by any respectable portion or number of the Southern people.

THE NEW YORK INVESTIGATION

Report of the Associated Committee of Citizens.

From the New York Tribune, Oct. 28.

To the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Supervisors and Aldermen Appointed to Investigate the public accounts of the City and County of New York:

The committee invited by the Committee of the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Aldermen, to "undertake an impartial investigation of the city and county accounts," would further report that they entered upon their labors without any knowledge of the extent of the city and county indebtedness, and without definite opinions in regard to the charges of corruption and fraud, alleged against those now holding prominent offices. In this investigation your committee have reached the following conclusions:

1. The debt of our city is fast approaching the figure of $100,000,000 [two hundred and one millions, $201,000,000 is the exact figure—ED. TRIBUNE], and the actual cost of which was less than $50,000,000.

2. Over $11,000,000 have been charged for outlays on an unfinished Court House, for which building completed an honest estimate of real cost would be less than $2,000,000.

4. Sofas, carpets, furniture, cabinet work, painting, plastering, and plumbing in the Court House, to the amount of $1,000,000 have been charged for, which sum a careful estimate, and $501,000 is the outside figure.

5. $460,000 have been paid for $16,000 worth of lumber.

6. The printing, advertising, stationery, etc., of the city and county, have cost in two years and eight months $6,312,912.78.

7. A large number of persons are on the pay-rolls of the city whose services are neither rendered nor required.

8. Figures upon warrants and vouchers have been fraudulently altered, and payments have been repeatedly made on forged indorsements.

With these facts before them, your committee are compelled to report to you that, in their judgment, the gigantic and robberies of the most famous character have been committed, with the connivance and co-operation of some of the officials who were appointed to guard the interests of the people.

The condition of the city and county finances, as shown by these investigations, has served to destroy all confidence in the management of the present city officials.

While not desiring to arrest the important improvements now in progress, your committee still deem it absolutely essential to the welfare of the city that expenditures in all departments be reduced to the lowest possible limits; that every officer and salaried employe whose services are not required be at once discharged, or that they resign; that contracts be subjected to the most rigid scrutiny, and all expenditures be reduced to an amount clearly within the financial ability of the Treasury, even into 1872.

The demands upon the City Treasury will necessitate the borrowing of large sums of money at an early day. An appeal must be made to moneyed institutions and capitalists. Beside the $20,000,000 due as taxes, $18,000,000 are required to meet current expenses and obligations maturing on the 10th of next January. After that, $18,000,000 to $20,000,000 will be required from the Treasury during the ensuing year, under the most economical administration of the city finances. Your committee regard as futile any attempt to borrow these large sums of money while the city is controlled by its present management.

The existing debt of the city is entirely within the ability of the people. But if the expenditures and frauds of the past two and a half years are to be longer continued, your committee cannot but view with alarm the consequences to the credit and prosperity of the city. They are, however, of the opinion that the tax-paying citizens and the moneyed institutions will cheerfully respond to the full extent of the requirements of the Treasury, if confidence in the administration of the City and County Government can be restored.

Your committee have accomplished the object of their appointment, as far as possible, without the additional power to send for persons and papers. We had reason to hope that the committee would be invested with this power, but that hope has been disappointed. Nothing, therefore, remains for us but to submit the results of the investigation, which are embodied in our successive reports. We have endeavored to discharge with fidelity the duty of the trust committed to our charge, and we deeply regret the necessity of exposing to public view a record of such unexampled and appalling municipal frauds.

Respectfully submitted, by order of the committee,

WM. A. BOOTH, Chairman.

A Dangerous Structure.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

SIR: In your article on "Fire Limits," this morning, you say, "As the erection of buildings, etc., going up under permits of the Board of Public Works" Note the following item, and judge for yourself: On the east side of North Peoria street is a three-story and basement wooden shell, not 80 x 100 on two sides, and 80 x 80 on two sides, and 80 x 40 on the rear story, but for some months it has been occupied. Since the fire it has been purchased or leased by parties for a variety theater, and they are engaged in enlarging it to double its former size, making a theater-like affair about 80 feet deep, and 80 wide. This building is being put up on a permit (I am credibly informed) issued since the passage of the new ordinance, and with their plans before the Board as passing from it, into "fit previous structure" as a "proposed alteration." Is this a proper permit? Is it a proper use of a permit? Is it the proper construction of a proper use of a permit? Is it the proper construction of a proper use of a permit? Is it safe or not safe? Is it fit to be used? Is it safe or not to be used? Is it fit to be occupied? Is it safe or not to be occupied? Is it safe or not to be occupied? Is it safe or not

AND COMMERCIAL.

...OMPTARY.
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NEW YORK.

Tweed Compromises one of the Suits Against Him.

O'Conor De lines to Run for the State Assembly.

Indictments Found against the Voucher Thieves.

Rumored Resignation of Tweed as a Candidate for the State Senate.

New York, October 30.—Henry Nolte, waits Seetup from a saloon keeper and a crowd, in Jersey City, early yesterday morning, was shot by Henry Harneda, a policeman, who, while off duty, had been drinking with the party. Nolte had been put out of the saloon, but returned and threw a rock at the keeper and fled. He leaves a wife and three children. Harneda was arrested.

The *Times* states that Tweed has concluded to pay $150,000 to Jackson S. Schultz, as the assignee of Keyser, for work and material furnished to Tweed's houses. Tweed's original defence was that Keyser agreed to do this work in consideration of receiving certain contracts. This action of Tweed's will stop one suit against him.

Charles O'Conor has sent a long letter to the committee, declining his nomination to the Assembly, in which he reviews the repeating system at elections, as well as the terrorism exercised over poor men at the polls by political hirelings. He considers that he can best serve the public interest in his present position. His whole time and finest powers will be needed in the proceedings against the robbers, who, not content with their already realized gains, are now thundering at the gates of the Treasury, and are determined to continue their iniquitous career through fraudulent contracts and corrupt legislation. His position, therefore, demands exemption, even from the choice of his personal interest, and his service will always be at the command of an honest Legislature.

This morning's *Tribune* says: "We learn with profound satisfaction that Mr. O'Gorman will call to his aid some of the best legal talent in the city, in the prosecution of his suits against the municipal robbers; so the public shall have no reason to doubt his sincerity. He has no thought of interfering in any way with the suits brought by Mr. O'Conor in the name of the Attorney General, but there is a question as to the proper authority to bring the suits in the premises, and he wishes to be secure against a possibility of failure, as we understand that the suits brought by the Attorney-General are for the recovery of money fraudulently taken from the city, while the Corporation Counsel sues those through whose neglect or breach of trust it was paid; and the two classes may, in some instances, include the identical persons, but the causes of action are distinct."

Subscriptions amounting to over $5,000 were received up to October 28, by the Committee of the Presbytery of New York for sufferers by the Western fires, $1,300 of which was appropriated to the Michigan and Wisconsin sufferers.

In the General Sessions to-day, the Grand Jury found indictments against Edwin M. Haggerty and Charles Hamlin, the alleged voucher thieves, for larceny and burglary. There are two indictments against each of the prisoners—one for grand larceny, the other for burglary.

Forty of the prisoners confined for debt in the Ludlow Street jail were taken before Judge Barnard, in the Supreme Court, this morning, to have their cases examined. Charles Wood, aged 27, and Wm. Johnson (colored) were discharged. The remainder of the prisoners were directed to prepare statements of their cases by Thursday next for submission to the court.

The injunction granted by Judge Pratt, of Brooklyn, in the Fisk-Gould case was dissolved yesterday by Judge Barnard, on motion of Mr. Marsh & Walters, who are attorneys for defendants. This order restrained the use of letters of Fisk to Mansfield, which the latter wants to use in the case commenced against Fisk. The injunction will be in force to Monday next.

An embankment fell upon three men who were constructing a lager beer vault in Brooklyn, this morning. One man was killed and two others severely injured.

A number of repeaters, the evidence of whose guilt has been taken from the registry lists, are to be prosecuted against by the Committee of Seventy.

In the Supreme Court, this morning, Judge Ingraham granted an order for the arrest of Fisk, Jr., at the suit of Helen Josephine Mansfield, who alleges that Fisk retains $50,000 of her money which he has used as her agent in speculations.

Three men, whose names are yet unknown, were arrested to-day on suspicion of having killed John Rourke last night.

Formal nominations order in the cases of the Board of Public Parks and Board of Public Docks against the Comptroller was settled in-day in accordance with the opinions already published.

The National Insurance Convention to-day completed discussion on the report of the Executive Committee on Legislation. It was recommitted with an amendment proposed and adopted, and with no information to further consideration. A resolution was adopted to limit delegates at future conventions to State officers only. The Nominating Committee then made a report that the scope of the subject was too wide to be thoroughly covered in the time allotted them. The following officers were chosen unanimously:

Geo. Miller, Albany, President; Alexander Bvesse, of Madison, Wis., Vice President; S. Olcott, New York, Secretary. The following gentlemen were appointed the Executive Committee:—Messrs. Allen & St. Louis Railroad, arrived here to-day in company with the officers of the road, on a special train. This road passes through Jacksonville, Ill., Mexico, Louisiana, and Brunswick, Mo., to Kansas City. Trains are transferred through Indiana without change of cars.

Resignation of Governor Bullock, of Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 30.—Governor Bullock resigned on the 29th inst., to take effect to-day, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Benjamin Conley, President of the Senate, was installed as Governor. Bullock's resignation was written before he went to New York. Great excitement prevails.

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The planters along the Bay shore have suffered to a still greater extent, but the damage is easily repaired, provided the fundamental evil ceases the means to put into the river two or three feet of earth, logs, &c., for a much greater amount of logs can be put into the river than can be taken out. Some of the Messrs. Ogden, of Oconto, and Partridge Rivers, which are not navigable, float into the Wolf where they would be picked up and towed to the mills. Their loss will be very heavy.

WASHINGTON.

The Civil Service Commissioners Still at Loggerheads.

Supreme Court Decisions—Internal Revenue Appointments.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 30.—Roderick Butler is urging to secure the removal of United States District Attorney Caine, of East Tennessee. Caine was a Union soldier, and is distasteful to rebels in that section.

Ex-Representative Arnell is urging the removal of Captain Rennegar, formerly a Union soldier, and now Postmaster of Clarksville, Tenn.

A Boston boot and shoe firm has applied for a patent on two trade-marks, evidently intended to exclusive for the Southern market, one being a device containing the portrait of General Lee, the other with the face of Stonewall Jackson. The examiner has rejected the application, though it will probably be lawful to encourage anything that will promote sectional strife. The case will be taken up at his examination.

Governor Bullock yesterday informed a gentleman in this city that the debt of his native State, Georgia, is twice as large as Ireland; is rich in mineral and agricultural resources, and has a population of about two millions. Hostilities were begun by Russia on account of the refusal of the D'Soungarians to surrender a fugitive.

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Prince Napoleon has arrived at Genoa, whence he will proceed to Florence.

South America.

New York, Oct. 30.—A private letter from Buenos Ayres says that there is a frightful prevalence in that country of small pox. During the past summer 9,000 deaths from yellow fever have occurred in Buenos Ayres, and 50,000 deaths in the Provinces of Corrientes.

IN A TYPHOON.

A Terrible Tempest in the Chinese Seas—A Night of Agony—Wreck on Sea and Shore—A Woman's Experience.

Hong Kong (Sept. 19) Correspondence of the San Francisco Bulletin.

A night passed alone in a hollow cyprus tree was, in point of horror and anguish, a twin to the one I have just gone through alone, fastened down in the cabin of a Dutch bark, while the typhoon raged in fury and tore down masts and ripped off cables, and swamped vessels, and sucked in men's lives, and roared with the united tongues of hell let loose to wreak vengeance on poor humanity. Of the wreck upon the shore, was forgotten, and left to meet my fate alone; whilst men strove and wrestled with the danger and fought for their lives; whilst they dodged and feared and contended until the excitement of the struggle banished the poignancy of pain.

For nine hours I sat alone, peering with aching eyeballs into the darkness, watching for the King of Terrors, whose form I knew well was enshrouded in its tenebrious fold; listening with strained ears to catch the first sound of that voice of death which should announce my dissolution. But there was only the one awesome boom, drowning all in its hollow depths. The cries of the sailors, the creaking of the timbers, the trumpet orders of the officers, and the sheets of rain, all were engulphed in this demoniacal roar, as in a dead stillness.

It was unlike any other storm I ever experienced, and worse than those in the Bay of Biscay, where I spent one fearful Christmas day of my life. Old sailors unaccustomed to typhoon, declared they had never heard such a sound. We heard no rumbling of the ship's timbers, no whistling of the wind through the rigging, no growl of thunder; no flash of lightning revealing how far the disaster had spread. It was a supernatural sound—a thing to fear. Though the winds had been gathering from the four quarters, rushing in a whirlwind round this devoted spot, and hurling each other in clamorous, frantic wrath.

I knew that I was still alive, but whether the only one on board surviving I could not tell; or whether any of the ships with which the harbor is studded, had broken loose, and were drifting swiftly down to their own and our destruction; whether our two enormous anchor chains would hold another second or snap with the frightful pressure on the little bark, and drive us whirling on the rocks.

The morning showed what had been the dire result to many less fortunate than we. Vessels lay ashore on the banks and quays were to be seen all sides; some cast ashore bespoke the horrors of the night; and yet more sadly was the story enforced by the disappearance of others which had foundered, their top-gallant masts only showing their whereabouts. Others had dragged their anchors for miles, carrying devastation wherever they foulded. One of these—a French bark—was seen to ben the crew on to the end of a rope; and all escaped save the Captain, who remained to the last and perished at his post; his death cry was heard by none but his Maker as he passed from the light and sound of man.

When the sun shone out for a few moments over those green, velvety-looking, rocky islands, a group of 1,500 junks, the largest fleet in the world, their shores were strewn with wrecks and human victims. The "sampans" and smaller craft had sought shelter early in the day, but many a poor Chinaman lost his little all during the severe scourge. Wretched-looking vessels from outside the bay were towed in during the day, all battered and torn. The whole day of Saturday had been stormy and threatening; and when our pilot had come on board we could distinguish, amid the cackling of Chinese, the word "typhoon! typhoon!" which, in many syllables caused our barb to "go about" more than twenty times before we could make the passage into the bay, where we were able to take up our berth and prepare for the worst.

The P. M. S. S. from San Francisco was then outside, and it was feared she might not get in, owing to the fierce contrary winds and the strong current; however, she succeeded, though the Captain and officers had to be lashed on deck. As American coolie ship, which had sailed in company with us several days, not being able to make the port, anchored outside. She was towed in the following day with closed decks, having lost everything. Each vessel in coming in, dismantled and disabled, told its own tale of the misery and struggle that its living freight had endured.

The disasters on shore were chiefly confined to property. A few men were carried away, and numerous buildings blown down; also the viceroy's, several blocks of houses, and the telegraph poles. The City Hall and the clock tower escaped with the loss of all the glass. The Submarine Telegraph Line to Deepwater Bay is much damaged. One gentleman saved fourteen lives from a Chinese junk, which ought to ennoble him for life. Many lives, and property to a tremendous amount, arrived here to-day in charge of the Admiral's Secretary; and the prisoner to bail in the sum of fifty thousand dollars with two sufficient sureties.

War Department Weather Report.

Washington, Oct. 30.—The barometer will probably fall in New York and New England, with southwesterly winds on the lower lakes, veering to the northwest on Tuesday, and the pressure increases with light northerly winds on the upper lakes. A storm of some severity will be developed in the lower Mississippi Valley and move southeastward to the Ohio Valley. Brisk easterly winds, with cloudy and threatening weather, will probably prevail on the South Atlantic coast. Cautionary signals are ordered for Detroit, Toledo, and Cleveland.

Railroad Opening.

Mexico, Mo., Oct. 30.—The Kansas editorial party which left St. Louis on Saturday night for Chicago for the purpose of viewing the ruins, having accepted an invitation to participate in the opening celebration of the Kansas City branch of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad, arrived here to-day in company with the officers of the road, in a special train. This road passes through Jacksonville, Ill., Mexico, Louisiana, and Brunswick, Mo., to Kansas City. Trains are transferred through Indiana without change of cars.

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FOREIGN.

Russia Accomplishes an Important Territorial Acquisition.

Russia.

New York, Oct. 30.—A correspondent of the London *Times* writes from Berlin that during June and July last the Russian Government invaded and annexed the country of D'Soungaria on the northern slope of the Tian chain of mountains, on the eastern frontier of the empire. The territory is twice as large as Ireland; is rich in mineral and agricultural resources, and has a population of about two millions. Hostilities were begun by Russia on account of the refusal of the D'Soungarians to surrender a fugitive.

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The National Congregational Council.

From the Boston Journal, Oct. 29.

The next important religious gathering in our country is the meeting of the Fifth National Council of Congregational Churches, which takes place at Oberlin, Ohio, on the 14th November. It will be composed of about 500 delegates, of whom one-third are laymen, among whom are such men as Senator Patterson, Chief Justice Chapman, Hon. Alpheus Hardy, Hon. Wm. B. Washburn, ex-Governor Buckingham, and Hon. Charles G. Hammond. The gathering is looked forward to with great interest by Congregationalists in this part of the country, who are beginning more alive, than ever before to the importance of uniting more unitedly on a denominational—not in a spirit of proscription, but in imitation of the old Jews, "to build over against their own place." This Council will, we believe, do much to promote this object. We hope the members of the denomination will join, that the council "will prove something more than a conference and prayer meeting for a large part of the time," it says, "for Maine and California, and Maryland and Minnesota to pray and sing together, but we look to see plans concerted by which something will be done for the cause of Christ and the country."

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